(b) by when, these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) At present there are three mega-projects under implementation in Bhutan which are funded by GOI.

1020 MWTala Hydro-electric Project: This Project is scheduled for commissioning by September 2005. The approved cost of the Project is Rs. 3580 crores and is being funded on part Grant and part Loan basis. The loan is repayable in 12 equated annual instalments and carries an interest rate of 9% per annum. Repayment of principle and interest would become due upon commencement of commercial operation of the project. Almost all the electricity generated by the project will be exported to India through the Eastern Grid. The Project is progressing as per schedule.

Dungsum Cement Plant Project: The Project has two components: (i) The Dungsum Cement Plant at an approved cost of Rs. 300 crores and (ii) Associated Infrastructure at an approved cost of Rs. 100 crores. This is funded entirely by Government of India. Although the work on the main Cement Plant has been suspended due to prevailing difficult law and order situation in Eastern Bhutan, the work on related infrastructure is continuing. The infrastructure related work includes construction of Geleph-Tintibi-Nanglam transmission line (completed), constructiion of road from Pathsala (Assam) to Nangalam (Bhutan) and a Railway siding for the Cement Plant.

60 MW Kurichu Project: This Project has been recently commissioned. It was funded by Government of India on part Grant and part Loan basis at a total cost of Rs. 560 crores. The loan component is repayable in 24 equated half yearly instalments and carries an interest rate of 10.75% per annum. The first repayment would commence from the date of full evacuation of power from Kurichu Project.

Ranking in globalisation

3636. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India ranks below Pakistan, Bangladesh in globalization;

(b) if so, whether India's ranking has slipped from 49 to 56 in 2003;

(c) if so, whether Government have assessed the cause of such fall in ranking; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) A globalization index published by AT. Kearney and Foreign Policy Magazine in January 2003 has ranked India at 56, behind Bangladesh (54) and Pakistan (50). It had ranked India at No. 49 in 2002.

(c) and (d) The methodology used does not fully capture the complexities of globalisation, nor does the ranking measure the overall competitiveness of the economies concerned.

Projects with neighbouring countries

3637. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, with a view to strenghten friendship and understanding with the immediate neighbouring countries, have taken up and executed some development schemes or projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether some more projects are proposed to be implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government attaches highest importance to strenghening of friendly relations and promoting understanding with neighbouring countries. As part of this policy, the Government has undertaken several development projects in our neighbourhood. Country-wise details of the projects are as follows:

1. Afghanistan:

Health

Assistance is being provided for the rehabilitation of Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH).